GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:514
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
DECLARATION OF MOST BACKWARD STATE
KANTI SINGH;MD ANWARUL HAQUE;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards significant imbalance between the two States after the bifurcation and the Bihar State would be left with only 45 per cent of revenue, while, Jharkhand with merely 25 per cent of the population will get 55 per cent of the revenue;

(b) whether Planning Commission has set up an internal assessment to declare the Bihar state as the most backward in terms of all indicators of develop- ment therein;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to declare the Bihar State under the special category;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) According to the information furnished by the Bihar Government, a population of about 75 per cent of the erstwhile State of Bihar has remained within the boundaries of the new State of Bihar. Out of the estimated total revenue receipt of Rs.3818 crore of the erstwhile State of Bihar, Rs.1970 crore constituting 51.5 per cent, is estimated to be the revenue share of new State of Bihar.

(b,c,d & e): The Planning Commission does not undertake the exercise to declare any State/ Union Territory of the country as the most backward or backward on the basis of development indicators. However, the States are declared Special Category States by the National Development Council (NDC) on the basis of laid down guidelines. The State Legislature of the erstwhile Bihar had suggested that the new State of Bihar, left over after the bifurcation of Jharkhand, should be accorded the status of a Special Category State. No such exercise has been undertaken by the Planning Commission. However, a dedicated unit has been set up in the Planning Commission under the direct charge of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. This unit is required, inter alia, to ensure that with the help of better financial management and adequate devolution of funds from the Centre, multi-faceted development of the region takes place, specially in respect of core infrastructure sector. However, a reference has been received from the Government of Bihar forwarding the outlines of a development package for the new State of Bihar which is currently under examination. Preliminary discussions have already been held at Patna with the State Officers who have now been invited for more detailed discussions.